



**Art in
Embassies
Exhibition**

United States
Embassy
Zagreb

Emmett Kyoshi
Wilson **USA**, 2017

Charcoal, pencil, and
acrylic paint on canvas
20 x 20 in. (50,8 x 50,8 cm)

Courtesy of the artist,
Glenview, Illinois



Welcome

For over fifty years, the U.S. State Department's Art in Embassies program has been promoting cultural exchange through the visual arts. It was an honor to select these works for the Ambassador's Residence to share with the people of Croatia as we further build on our excellent bilateral relationship.

Our flag is a symbol of pride that unites us as Americans during the best and worst of times. As our country developed from thirteen colonies to fifty vibrant states, our flag changed along with it and remains the most powerful

representation of our history. For this reason, I chose these works by Jasper Johns, Kelly Burke and Emmett Kyoshi Wilson. Their vivid interpretations of our iconic flag capture and chronicle our unique history. I am grateful to each of them for making this exhibition possible and hope you will enjoy the originality of these great American artists.

Ambassador W. Robert Kohorst

*Zagreb
June 2018*

Jasper Johns

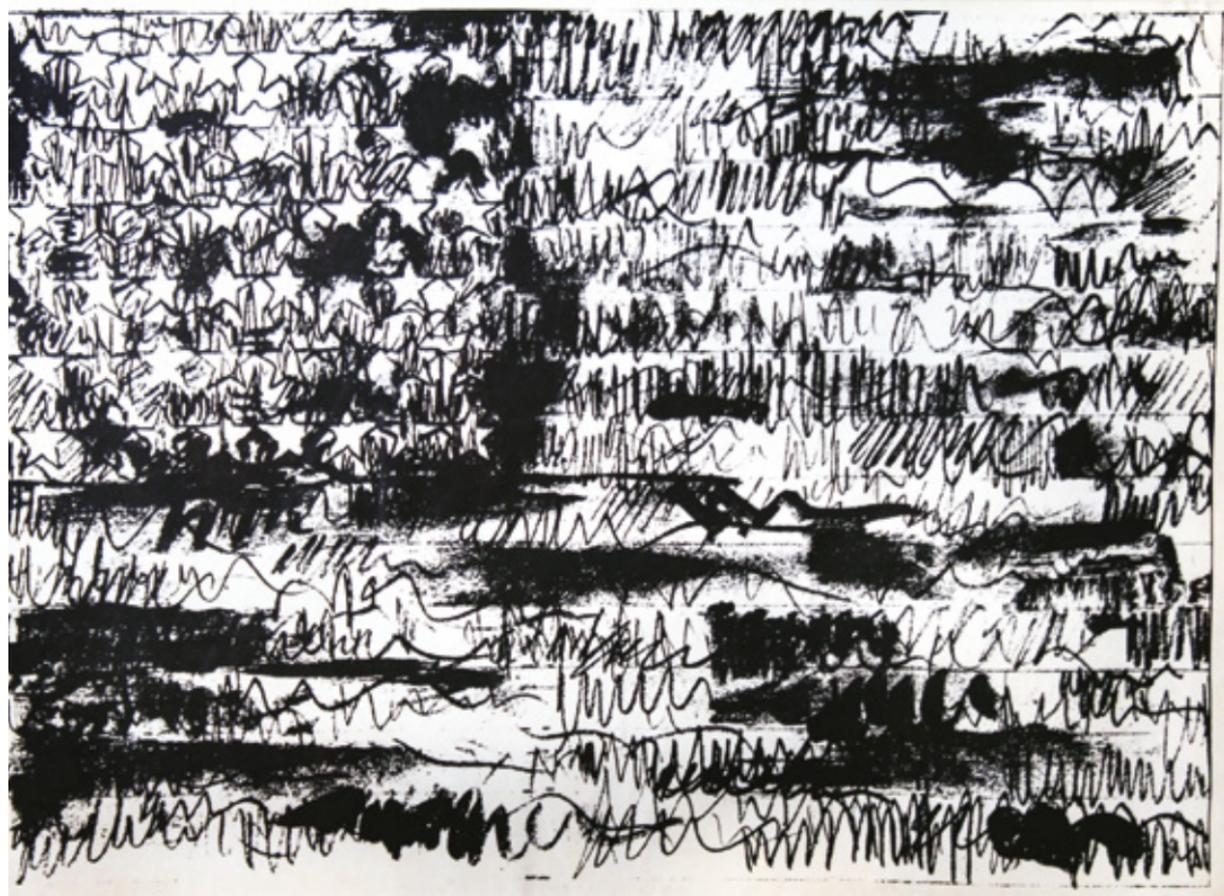
(1930)

Jasper Johns is an American painter, sculptor, and printmaker. Born in Augusta, Georgia, he began his career as a commercial artist, producing displays for New York shop windows. In 1958 he had his first one-man exhibition, a rousing success. His images depict commonplace two-dimensional objects (e.g., flags, maps, targets, numbers, letters of the alphabet) in simple colors. His banal subject matter and rejection of emotional expression departed radically from the abstract expressionism that then dominated the

American art scene. Among his best-known works is *Painted Bronze*, a cast sculpture of two Ballantine Ale cans and from there he began to attach real objects to his canvases. In the 1970s he produced paintings composed of clusters of parallel lines called "crosshatchings."

www.jasperjohns.com/bio.shtml

Tattered Banner
Lithograph
25 ½ x 33 in. (64,8 x 83,8 cm)
Collection of Art in Embassies,
Washington, D.C.; Gift of the Leo
Castelli Gallery, New York



Kelly Burke

(1966)

States of Being II: Diverse, 2016

Acrylic on canvas
32 x 38 in. (81,3 x 96,5 cm)
Courtesy of the artist,
Baltimore, Maryland

Kelly Burke is known for her work on the symbolic potential of the stars and stripes of the American flag in her *Reimagined American Flags* and *States of Being* series. The nine pieces in her *States of Being* series visually push the potential meanings of the 50 stars and states of the U.S. flag at national, state, and individual levels. The artwork *States of Being II: Diverse* expresses the ethnic and multi-national diversity of the country through different colored stars inspired by flags from around the world.

In addition to her political-conceptual artwork, all of which are also made as quilts, she paints and quilts animal portraits and does abstracts in oil and in acrylics.

www.kellyburke-artworks.com



Emmett Kyoshi Wilson

(2005)

USA, 2017
Charcoal, pencil, and
acrylic paint on canvas
20 x 20 in. (50,8 x 50,8 cm)
Courtesy of the artist,
Glenview, Illinois

“Emmett Kyoshi Wilson joined us on May 9th, 2005, and came to us with Down Syndrome. This incredible child, who is both Japanese and American, carries an extra chromosome, which some consider a disability. If you study his work and meet him in person, that extra chromosome is anything but.

A paintbrush landed in his hand at four, and from that day, painting has been Emmett’s strongest means of communication. Holding and writing with a pencil are a challenge but put a brush or charcoal in its place and he’s

not only ambidextrous but completely brilliant. His abstract work is a peek into his exquisite mind, body and soul...

Emmett is a performer at heart, with a passion for ventriloquism, dancing and singing... this is a special person we have on our hands. After experiencing his work, you’ll understand his slogan, coined by Dr. Seuss, ‘Why fit in when we are born to stand out.’”

<https://emmettkyoshiart.com>



Art in Embassies



Established in 1963, the U.S. Department of State's office of Art in Embassies (AIE) plays a vital role in our nation's public diplomacy through a culturally expansive mission, creating temporary and permanent exhibitions, artist programming, and publications. The Museum of Modern Art first envisioned this global visual arts program a decade earlier. In the early 1960s, President John F. Kennedy formalized it, naming the program's first director. Now with over 200 venues, AIE curates temporary and permanent exhibitions for the representational spaces of

all U.S. chanceries, consulates, and embassy residences worldwide, selecting and commissioning contemporary art from the U.S. and the host countries. These exhibitions provide international audiences with a sense of the quality, scope, and diversity of both countries' art and culture, establishing AIE's presence in more countries than any other U.S. foundation or arts organization.

AIE's exhibitions allow foreign citizens, many of whom might never travel to the United States, to personally experience the depth and breadth of our artistic heritage and values, making what has been called a "footprint that can be left where people have no opportunity to see American art."

<https://art.state.gov/>

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